

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03642 210200Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3642

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: BILATERAL APPROACHES ON SOVIET TRIALS: CANADIAN
VIEWS

REF: STATE 179532

1. DCM AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED JULY 20 ON
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS BAUDOUIN AND SOVIET
DESK OFFICER LYSYSHYN TO DISCUSS POINTS IN REFTEL, WHICH
WE HAD PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO THEM IN WRITING. THEIR
GENERAL COMMENTS MADE CLEAR THAT GOC SHARES OUR VIEWS ON
THIS SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY THAT RECENT TRIALS IN SOVIET
UNION WERE FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HELSINKI OBJECTIVES AND
STATEMENTS OF INTENT, AND THAT SIGNATORY STATES SHOULD
CONVEY THEIR CONCERNS TO THE SOVIETS, WHICH CANADIANS HAVE
ALREADY DONE VIA STATEMENT BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER
JAMIESON (STATE 172813 NOTAL) AND COMMENTS BY TRUDEAU
(OTTAWA 3542 NOTAL). HOWEVER, BOTH BAUDOUIN AND LYSYSHYN
BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO GO BEYOND SUCH EXPRESSIONS
OF CONCERN IN A MANNER WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE CSCE
STRUCTURE. THEY NOTED FINAL ACT CONTAINS OTHER BASKETS
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03642 210200Z

BESIDES BASKET THREE AND THAT, AS EVIDENCED AT BELGRADE,
NOT ALL EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES SEE EYE-TO-EYE WITH THE
SOVIETS ON VARIOUS ISSUES. IF WEST WERE TO PUSH SOVIETS
TOO HARD ON THESE RECENT TRIALS IN CSCE CONTEXT, THESE
STATES WOULD BE COMPELLED TO RALLY TO SOVIET SIDE AND
CSCE PROCESS-AND ITS LONG-TERM UTILITY--MIGHT BE ENDANGERED.

2. TURNING TO SOVIET-CANADIAN RLATIONS, OUR INTERLOCUTORS INDICATED THAT, ASIDE FROM JAMIESON AND TRUDEAU REMARKS, THEY SAW NO PRODUCTIVE MOVE GOC COULD TAKE TO SHOW ITS DISPLEASURE OVER TRIALS. THEY NOTED THAT RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW COOLED SOMEWHAT OVER CANADIAN EXPULSION OF 13 SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHICH LED TO POSTPONEMENT OF VISITS OF JAMIESON TO SOVIET UNION AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV TO CANADA.

3. BAUDOUIN AND LYSYSHYN ALSO MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS DEMONSTRATED HIGH DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY TO RECENT VISIT OF CHINESE PARLIAMENTARIANS. IN FACT, THEY INVOKED PROTOCOL ON CONSULTATIONS TO ASK FOR BRIEFING ON CHINESE/CANADIAN RELATIONS. SOVIETS WANTED TO KNOW WHY TRUDEAU HAD ATTENDED RECEPTION AT CHINESE EMBASSY FOR THESE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND WHETHER CHINESE HAD ASKED TO PURCHASE ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM CANADA. TO LATTER POINT, CANADIANS RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE. CANADIANS DID REVEAL THEY HAD AGREED TO SELL TWO TWIN OTTER AIRCRAFT TO CHINESE, WHICH PROMPTED SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO ASSERT SUCH AIRCRAFT COULD BE USED FOR RECONNAISSANCE PURPOSES* LYSYSHYN STATED THAT, DESPITE RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SOVIETS, FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE PROCESSED IN USUAL FASHION AND THAT THEY AVERAGE AS THEY HAVE FOR PAST FOUR YEARS, ABOUT 280 PEOPLE ANNUALLY. ENDERS

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